

Message Text

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17-12
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 19613

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI VS
SUBJ: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN PLEIKU AND QUANG DUC

FOLG TEL SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO SAIGON FM NHA TRANG 16 NOV73
REPEATED FYINFO:

QUOTE

NHA TRANG 0945

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI VS
SUBJECT: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN PLEIKU AND QUANG DUC

DAO FOR AOSOP-OR/IS/IX

REF; NHA TRANG 0942

1. THE TEMPO OF FIGHTING IN QUANG DUC AND IN PLEIKU APPEARS TO
BE INCREASING. AT THE II CORPS BRIEFING IN NHA TRANG THIS
MORNING, EIGHT ATTACKS BY FIRE AND A GROUND ASSAULT WERE REPORTED
AS HAVING TAKEN PLACE YESTERDAY IN AN ARC ROUGHLY 15 KM SOUTHWEST
OF PLEIKU CITY. THE GROUND ASSAULT KILLED 7 ARVN AND WOUNDED
8, WHILE THE COMMUNISTS LOST 20. IN QUANG DUC, ARVN FORCES
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(ARMOR AND INFANTRY) MOVING ON DAK SONG FROM THE NORTH AND

SOUTH ARE HAVING INCREASED BUT STILL MINOR CONTACT (MOSTLY EXCHANGE OF FIRE) WITH THE COMMUNISTS A FEW KILOMETERS FROM THAT OUTPOST. SOUTH OF BU PRANG TWO MORE GROUND ATTACKS TOOK PLACE YESTERDAY. TOTAL CASUALTIES REPORTED: ARVN: 1 KIA, 3 WIA; VC/NVA: 20 KIA. THESE ENGAGEMENTS WERE IN THE SAME AREA AS THE FIGHTING ON NOV 14TH (REFTEL) IN WHICH VNAF AERIAL OBSERVATION CLAIMED 100 COMMUNISTS KILLED BY AIRSTRIKES AND ARTILLERY. SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTING ON THAT FIGHT STATES THE FOLLOWING WEAPONS SEIZED: ONE 12.77 MM ANTI-AIR MACHINE GUN (DESTROYED). ONE 61 MM MORTAR, TWO RPD AUTOMATIC RIFLES, THREE B-40, ONE B-41 AND 27 AK 47'S.

2. THE COMMUNISTS' FORWARD DEFENSE OF BU PRANG CONTRASTS WITH THEIR CLOSE-IN DEFENSE OF DAK SONG AND MAY INDICATE THAT THEY ATTACH A GREATER IMPORTANCE TO HOLDING BU PRANG. HOWEVER, DAK SONG CONTROLS THE LAND ROUTE SOUTH TO BOTH BU PRANG AND GIA NGHIA, AND IT WOULD BE A BLOW TO THE COMMUNISTS IF ARVN COULD RETAKE IT.
SPEAR

UNQUOTE.
APPLING

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NNN

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